

Application No. 10/035,230
Amendment dated December 12, 2003
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Re: Paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action

Applicants note that the specification has been amended bearing in mind the Examiner's concerns. No new matter has been introduced. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Re: Paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action

Applicants kindly refer the Examiner to the Terminal Disclaimer that was submitted on September 26, 2003, a copy of which is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience. Withdrawal of the double patenting rejections is respectfully requested.

Re: Paragraphs 6-7 of the Office Action

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's consideration of the claims submitted for U.S. Applications 10/240,399; 10/301,859; and 09/948,713. Furthermore, Applicants note that the listing of reference EP 0831137 resulted from a clerical error as it should have been listed as EP 0831127. Upon further review, EP 0831127 is a counterpart of WO 96/35758 (previously indicated as considered), both of which are already of record.

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed and overcome, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.